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(54) **LASER INDUCED GRAPHENE COATED OPTICAL FIBERS**

G02B 6/4415; G02B 6/4479; G02B 6/443; G02B 6/02; G01N 21/00; G01D 5/268; H01G 11/08; H01G 11/10; H01G 11/36; H01G 11/86

(71) Applicant: **Halliburton Energy Services, Inc.**,  
Houston, TX (US)

See application file for complete search history.

(72) Inventors: **Satyan Gopal Bhongale**, Cypress, TX (US); **Daniel Joshua Stark**, Houston, TX (US); **Etienne Samson**, Cypress, TX (US); **Li Gao**, Katy, TX (US)

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(73) Assignee: **Halliburton Energy Services, Inc.**,  
Houston, TX (US)

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*Primary Examiner* — John Bedtelyon

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — McGuireWoods LLP

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**E21B 47/00** (2012.01)  
(Continued)

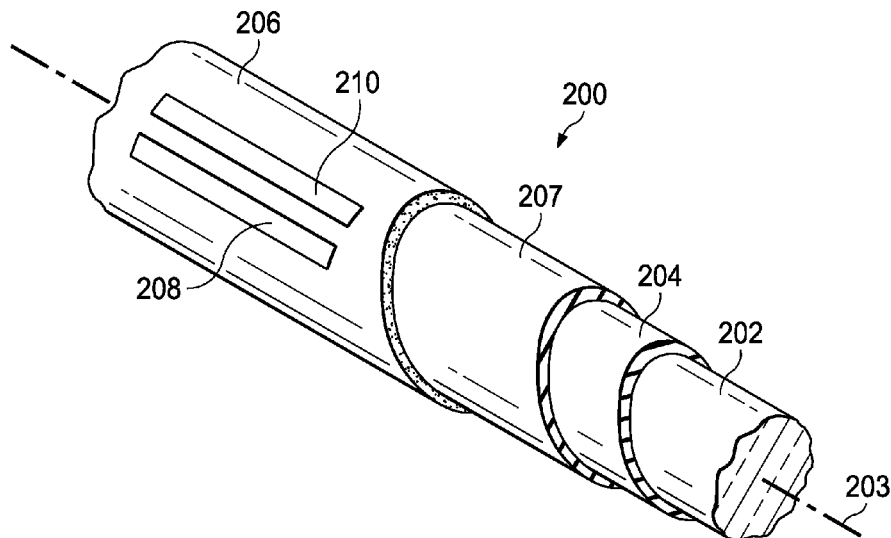
(57) **ABSTRACT**

Optical fiber having a graphene coating, a method to apply a graphene coating onto an optical fiber, and a fiber optic cable having a graphene coating are disclosed. A first carbon based coating is applied to an optical fiber along a longitudinal axis of the optical fiber. A laser beam is focused at the first carbon based coating. A first surface of the first carbon based coating is photothermally converted into a first layer of graphene.

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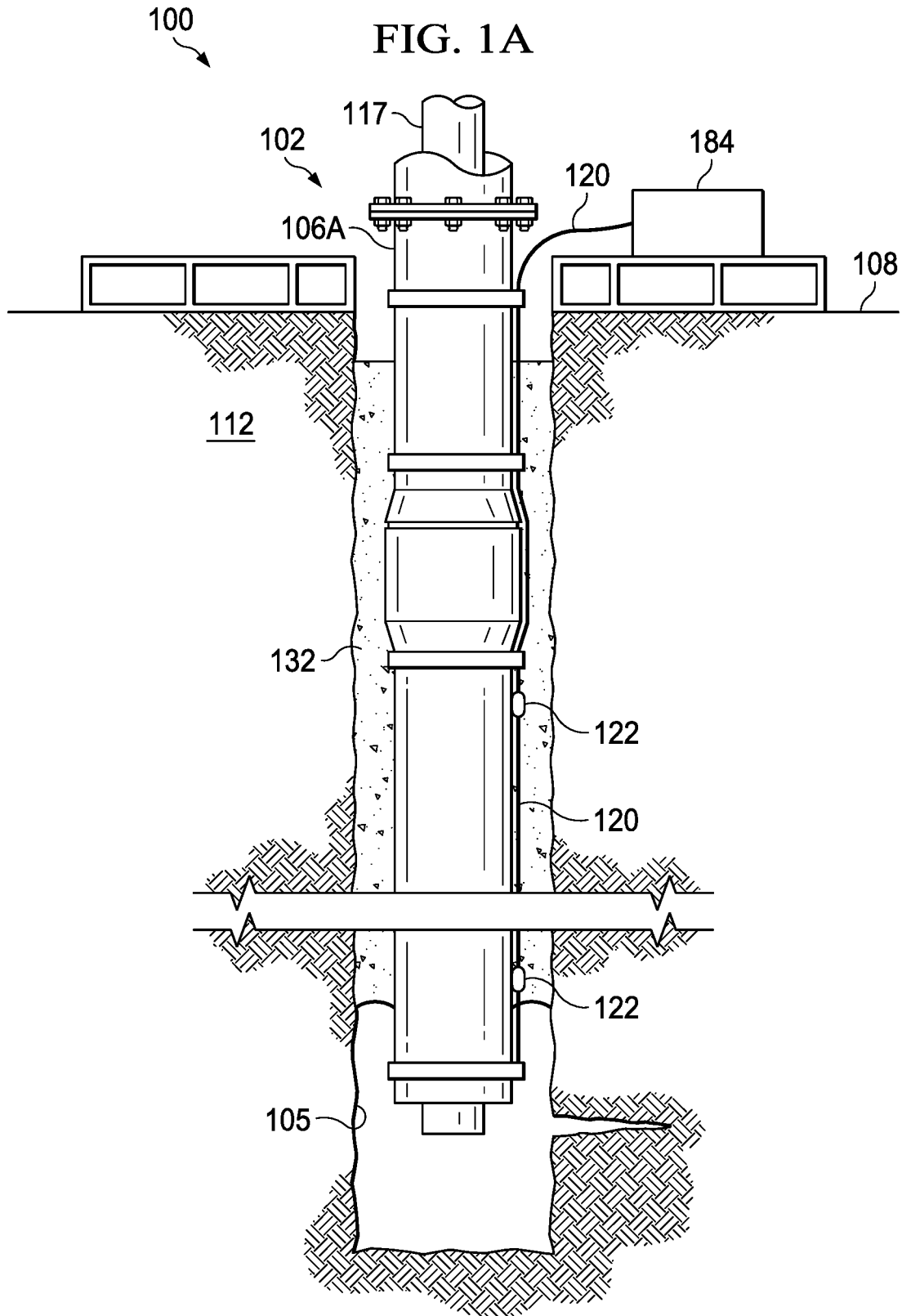
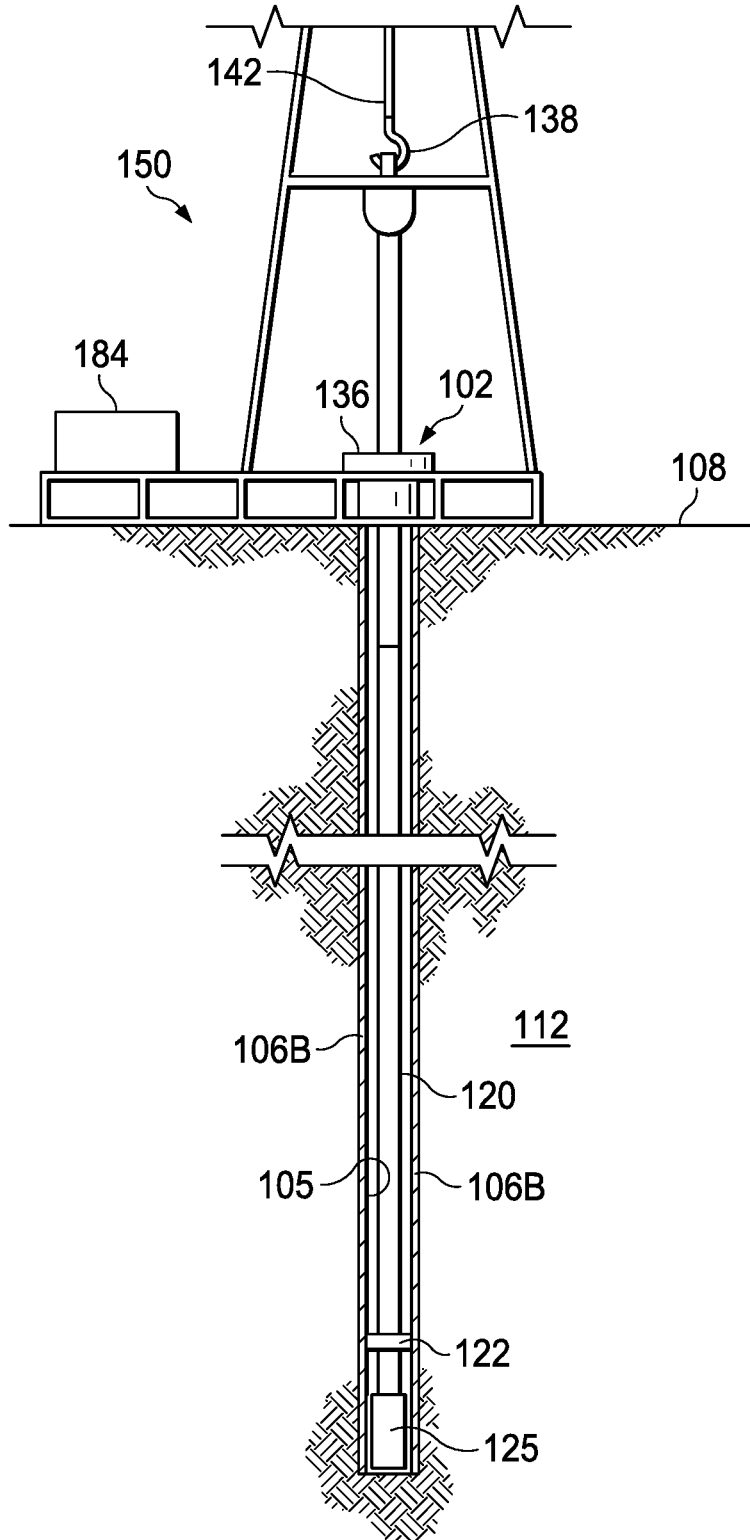


FIG. 1B



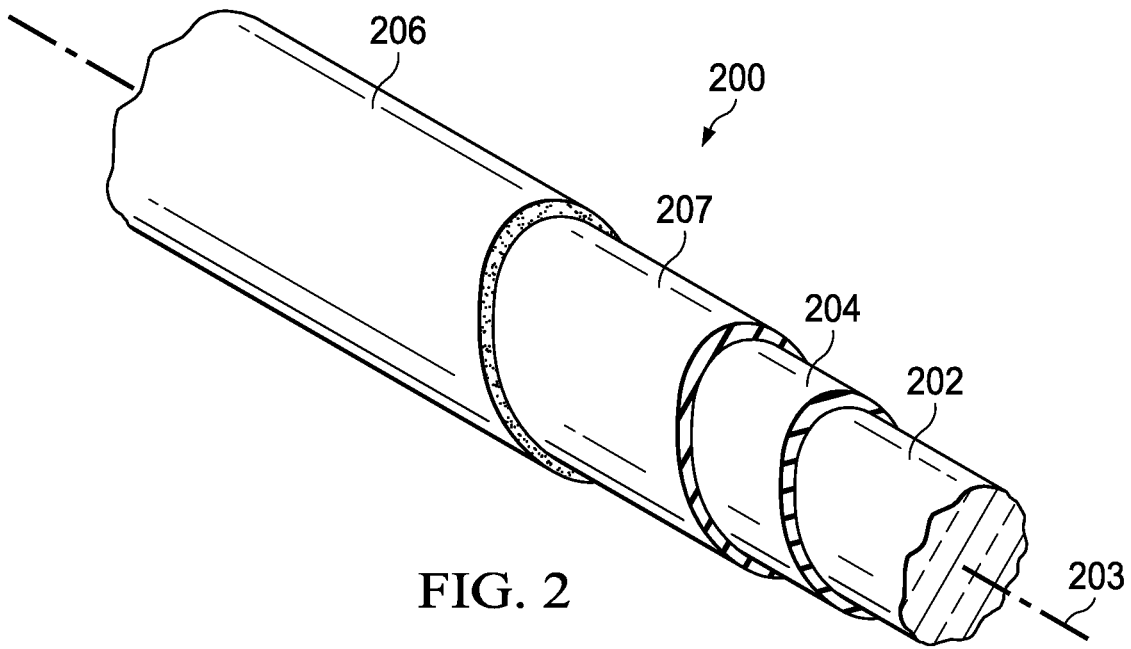


FIG. 2

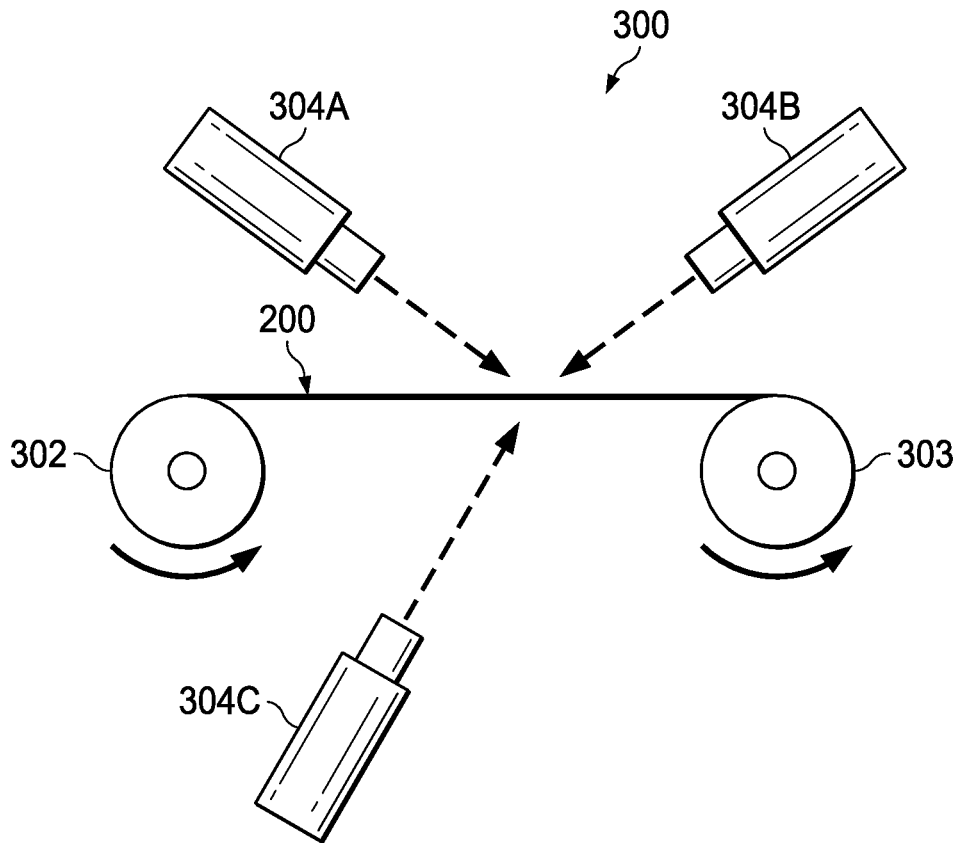


FIG. 3

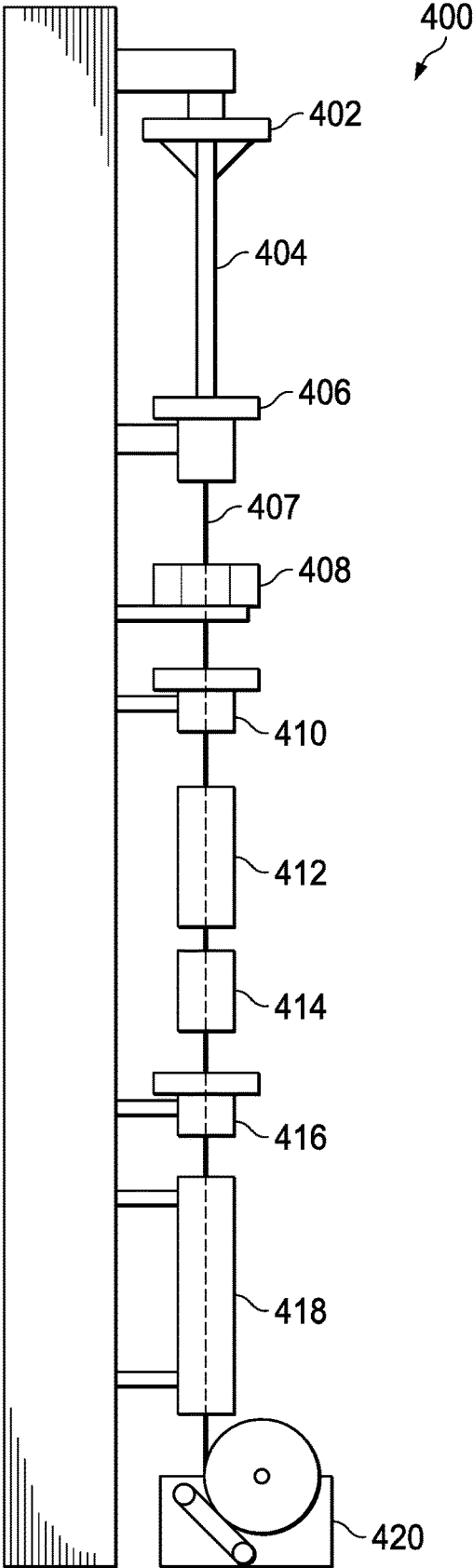


FIG. 4

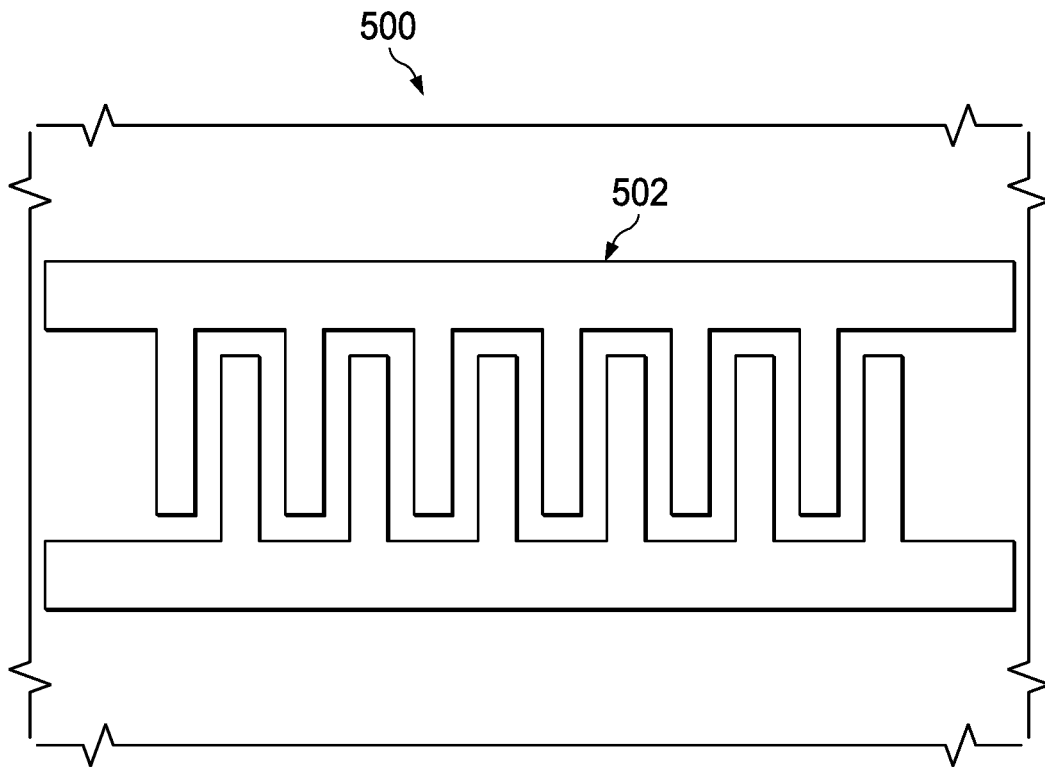


FIG. 5

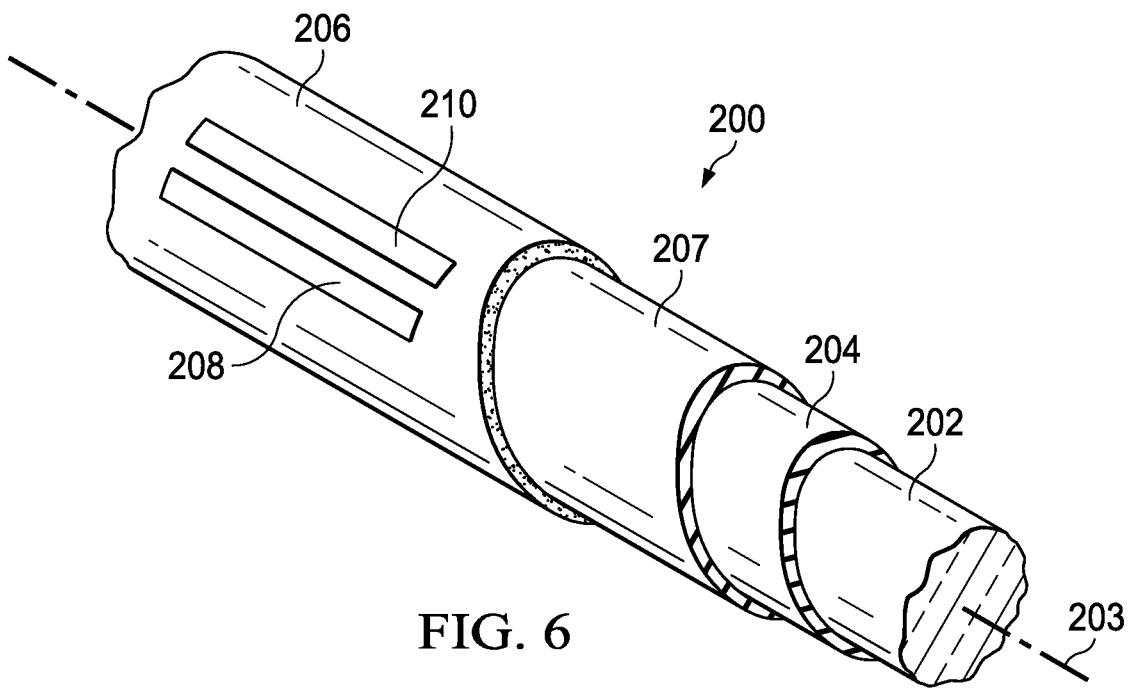


FIG. 6

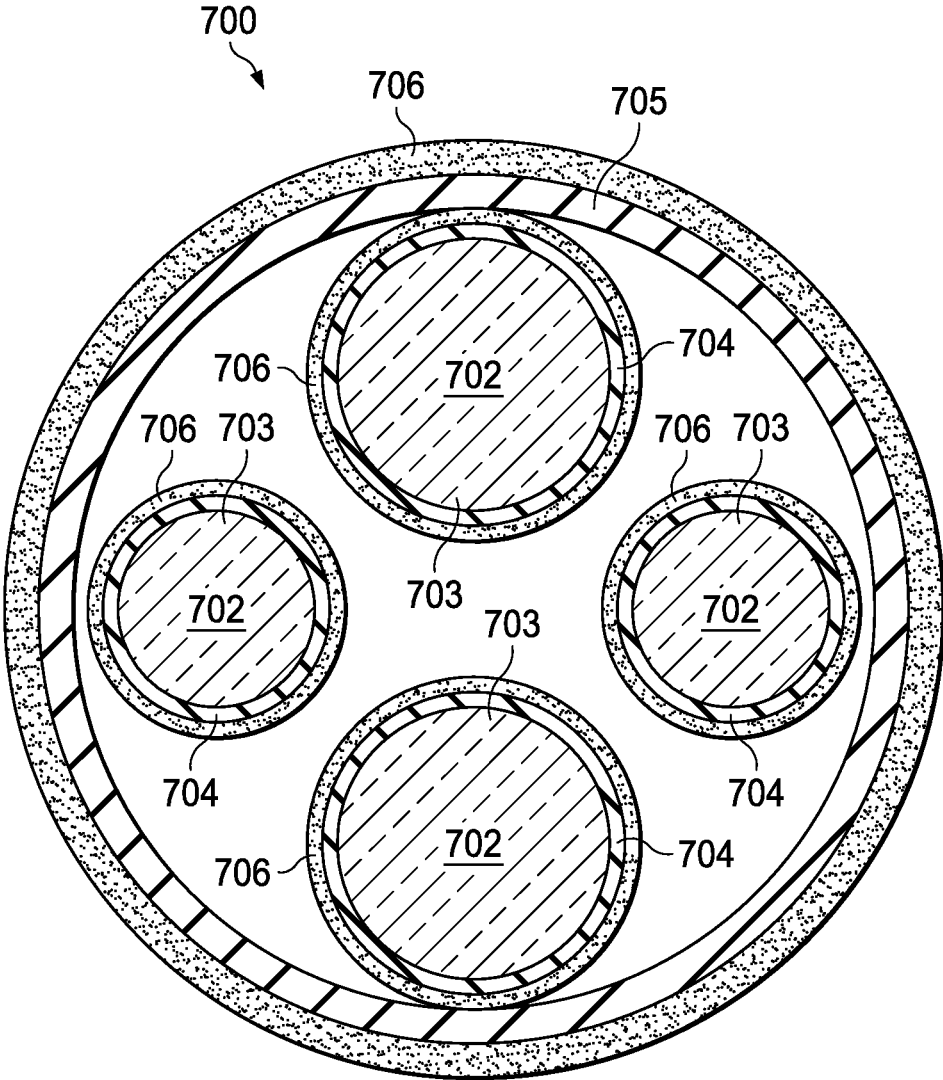


FIG. 7

1

## LASER INDUCED GRAPHENE COATED OPTICAL FIBERS

### CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a divisional of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/315,990 filed on Jan. 7, 2019 entitled Laser Induced Graphene Coated Optical Fibers, which is a 371 application of International PCT Application No. PCT/US2016/054993, filed Sep. 30, 2016 both of which are incorporated herein by reference.

### BACKGROUND

The present disclosure relates generally to optical fibers and fiber optic cables having a graphene coating, and to methods to assemble optical fibers and fiber optic cables having a graphene coating.

Optical fibers are sometimes used in a wellbore to facilitate fiber optic communications with downhole tools and devices and for optical sensing of the downhole environment. For example, optical fibers may be used as sensors to measure the temperature, pressure, vibration, displacement, velocity, torque, acceleration, as well as other properties of the downhole environment. Optical fibers may also be deployed in many telemetry systems and may be used to transmit signals indicative of commands to downhole tools and instruments, and to transmit signals indicative of downhole measurements as well as signals indicative of other data obtained by downhole tools to the surface.

Optical fibers that are disposed in wellbores are often exposed to hostile environments where the temperature can reach over 350° F., pressure can reach over 20 kpsi, and contaminates such as chemicals that erode optical fibers are abundantly present. At high temperatures, hydrogen ions, which are abundantly present in wellbores, may penetrate protective coverings of the optical fibers, and interact with optical core components of the optical fibers, which are typically made from silica. The hydrogen ions may bind to the silica to form SiOH, which has a much higher optical attenuation than silica. This adverse condition is known as “hydrogen darkening.” Hydrogen darkening significantly degrades optical properties of the optical fibers, thereby costing oil and gas companies millions of dollars to repair or replace degraded optical fibers. Further, optical fibers are sometimes deployed in a well for the life expectancy of the well, which may be several decades. In such circumstances, the material properties of deployed optical fibers should not significantly degrade while the well remains in service.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The following figures are included to illustrate certain aspects of the present disclosure, and should not be viewed as exclusive embodiments. The subject matter disclosed is capable of considerable modifications, alterations, combinations, and equivalents in form and function, without departing from the scope of this disclosure.

FIG. 1A illustrates a schematic view of a production environment in which an optical fiber is deployed along an exterior surface of a production casing to facilitate fiber optic communications with downhole tools and devices and for optical sensing of the downhole environment;

FIG. 1B is a wireline logging environment in which an optical fiber is deployed in a wellbore of a well to facilitate

2

fiber optic communications with downhole tools and devices and for optical sensing of the downhole environment;

FIG. 2 illustrates a schematic, cross-sectional view of an optical fiber;

5 FIG. 3 illustrates a perspective view of a system for forming a graphene layer on the optical fiber of FIG. 2 via laser-induction;

FIG. 4 illustrates a perspective view of a system for forming a graphene layer on a fiber optic preform via laser-induction;

10 FIG. 5 illustrates a top down view of a layer of graphene electrolyte formed on a carbon based coating;

FIG. 6 illustrates a schematic, cross-sectional view of the optical fiber of FIG. 2, where electrical components are disposed on the layer of graphene of the optical fiber; and

15 FIG. 7 illustrates a fiber optic cable having a plurality of optical fibers.

The illustrated figures are only exemplary and are not intended to assert or imply any limitation with regard to the environment, architecture, design, or process in which different embodiments may be implemented.

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATIVE EMBODIMENTS

25 In the following detailed description of the illustrative embodiments, reference is made to the accompanying drawings that form a part hereof. These embodiments are described in sufficient detail to enable those skilled in the art to practice the invention, and it is understood that other embodiments may be utilized and that logical structural, mechanical, electrical, and chemical changes may be made without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention. To avoid detail not necessary to enable those skilled in the art to practice the embodiments described herein, the description may omit certain information known to those skilled in the art. The following detailed description is, therefore, not to be taken in a limiting sense, and the scope of the illustrative embodiments is defined only by the appended claims.

30 The present disclosure relates to optical fibers and fiber optic cables having a graphene coating and methods to apply graphene coating onto optical fibers and fiber optic cables. An optical fiber includes an optical core manufactured from a type of silica or plastic. In some embodiments, the optical fiber also includes a cladding that surrounds the optical core. In further embodiments, the optical fiber may be a multi core fiber, photonic crystal fiber, disordered fiber, doped fiber, or any silica or polymer based fiber that may be used as a wave guide for light propagation. The cladding is surrounded by a carbon based coating that protects the optical core from adverse environmental conditions and contaminates that may degrade or damage the optical core. In some embodiments, the carbon based coating is formed from polyimides, polyetherimides, or other polymers with aromatic and imide repeat units.

35 A layer of graphene is formed on the carbon based coating to further protect the optical fiber from adverse environmental conditions and contaminates. In some embodiments, a laser induction process is used to focus a laser (e.g., a carbon dioxide laser) at the carbon based coating. The laser photothermally converts a layer of the carbon based coating into graphene. In other embodiments, graphene may also be formed on the carbon based coating via chemical vapor deposition or liquid deposition techniques. In further embodiments, preformed graphene may be applied to the optical fiber directly. The layer of graphene acts as a barrier

against hydrogen ions, which are abundantly present in a hydrocarbon rich environment, such as a wellbore.

The layer of graphene may also be electrically conductive. In some embodiments, the layer of graphene forms a conductive path that connects one or more power sources to downhole electronic components. In one of such embodiments, the layer of graphene is operable to transmit an alternating current or a direct current downhole to power downhole electronic components. In another one of such embodiments, the layer of graphene is surrounded by an insulating layer. In further embodiments, electrical components, such as capacitors, supercapacitors, transistors, resistors, diodes, and the like may be formed by forming graphene electrode patterns on the carbon based coating. In one of such embodiments, the optoelectronic properties of the graphene allow electronic components to be formed on the layer of graphene without additional opto-electronic interfaces between the optical core and the electronic components formed on the graphene. In one of such embodiments, the electrical components are combined to form a power source. The capacitor and supercapacitor components of the power source are charged at the surface before the power source is deployed downhole provide power to downhole tools and to recharge downhole power sources. The electrical components may also form sensors that measure the wellbore environment to provide temperature, pressure, pH, or other conditions of the wellbore environment. In further embodiments, additional layers of materials, such as boron nitride, molybdenum disulfide (MOS<sub>2</sub>), silicone layered transition metal dichalcogenides, and germanene layered transition metal dichalcogenides may be disposed proximate to the layer of graphene to form the electrical components discussed herein.

One or more intermediary layers may be added to enhance the physical properties of the optical fiber. For example, the intermediary layers may have material properties that strengthen the optical fiber, enhance the resilience of the optical fiber, resist or protect the optical fiber from adverse conditions such as heat and pressure, shield the optical fiber from contaminants, or any combination thereof. In some embodiments, one or more intermediary layers may form insulators to insulate the optical core from conductive layers and/or semi-conductive layers of the optical fiber, or to insulate different conductive layers and/or semi-conductive layers of the optical fiber from each other. In further embodiments, at least one of the one or more intermediary layers may also form a buffer layer that separates the graphene layer from the optical core, cladding, or other graphene layers. In some embodiments, multiple layers of graphene are formed around the optical core. In one of such embodiments, one or more having insulating or semiconducting properties are formed around the optical core and in between optical core and the graphene layers to isolate the optical core from the graphene layers.

Now turning to the figures, FIG. 1A illustrates a production environment 100 in which an optical fiber 120 is deployed along an exterior surface of a production casing 106A that to facilitate fiber optic communications with downhole tools and devices and for optical sensing of the downhole environment. In the embodiment of FIG. 1A, well 102 includes a wellbore 105, which extends from a surface 108 of the well 102 to or through a subterranean formation 112. The production casing 106A extends from a surface 108 of well 102 down wellbore 105 to insulate downhole tools and strings deployed in the production casing 106A as well as hydrocarbon resources flowing through production casing 106A from the surrounding subterranean formation 112, to

prevent cave-ins, and/or to prevent contamination of the surrounding subterranean formation 112. A cement sheath 132 is deposited along an annulus between the wellbore and the production casing 106A to set the production casing 106A and to form a barrier that seals the production casing 106A. The optical fiber 120 is fitted with sensors 122 and extends along the production casing 106A down the wellbore 105. A string 117 is deployed in an annulus of the production casing 116A. In some embodiments, the string is a production string that provides an annulus for wellbore fluids to travel down the wellbore 105 and for hydrocarbon resources to travel up the wellbore 105. In such embodiments, the optical fiber 120 is operable to provide semi-permanent and/or permanent monitoring of the downhole environment. In other embodiments, the string is a wireline tool string, a slickline tool string, or another type of tool string operable to deploy the sensors, tools, as well as other downhole electronic devices during the operation of the well 102. In one of such embodiments, the optical fiber 120 is operable to detect signals indicative of measurements from the sensors, tools, and downhole electronic devices, and to transmit the detected signals along the optical fiber 120 to the surface 108. In the embodiment of FIG. 1, the optical fiber 120 is directly connected to controller 184, which includes any electronic device operable to receive and/or provide for display information indicative of signals transmitted by the optical fiber 120. In further embodiments, signals transmitted along the optical fiber 120 are relayed by another device or telemetry system to the controller 184.

FIG. 1B illustrates a schematic view of a wireline logging environment 150, in which the optical fiber 120 is deployed in an annulus of a production casing 106B deployed in the wellbore 105 of the well 102 to facilitate fiber optic communications with downhole tools and devices and for optical sensing of the downhole environment. A hook 138, cable 142, traveling block (not shown), and hoist (not shown) are provided to lower the optical fiber 120 down the wellbore 105 or to lift the optical fiber 120 up from the wellbore 105. In other embodiments, the optical fiber 120 is enclosed in a casing and is deployed downhole through a feedthrough system in combination with spools and slip rings. The optical fiber 120, may also be deployed in other production or preparation environments, such as logging while drilling and measurement while drilling environments. In some embodiments, the optical fiber 120 is deployed with the tool string 117. In other embodiments, multiple optical and/or electrical fibers are encapsulated within a fiber optic cable that is deployed with the tool string 117. Further, although FIGS. 1A and 1B illustrate deploying optical fiber 120 in downhole environments of on shore wells, the optical fiber 120 may also be deployed in subsea environments such as in offshore wells, along subterranean formations (underground fiber optic cable lines), along the seafloor (underwater optical cable lines), or above ground (in fiber optic cable lines suspended by multiple tower or poles).

The optical fiber 120 is fitted with sensors 122 operable to make one or more types of downhole measurements. Further, the optical fiber 120 is also coupled to a logging tool 125. Additional descriptions of the optical fiber 120 are described in the following paragraphs and are illustrated in at least FIGS. 2-8. In some embodiments, the optical fiber 120 may be utilized to perform distributed sensing of various conditions of wellbore 105 and to transmit measurements of the conditions to the controller 184. In further embodiments, one or more electrical components formed on the optical fiber are operable to measure the conditions of the wellbore 105. Measurements made by the sensors 122, the

optical fiber, and electrical components formed on the optical fiber **120** may be transmitted via an optical core (not shown) of the optical fiber **120** to the controller **184**. Similarly, communications with the sensors **122** and the logging tool **125** are transmitted via the optical core of the optical fiber **120** to the controller **184**.

The optical fiber **120** also includes a carbon based coating and a layer of graphene. In some embodiments, electrical components, such as capacitors, supercapacitors, transistors, diodes, resistors and the like are formed on the carbon based coating. In further embodiments, the electrical components are formed on one or more intermediary layers of materials that are disposed proximate to the graphene layer. In some embodiments, the electrical components form a power source to provide power to the sensors **122** and the downhole logging tool **125**. In further embodiments, the electrical components form sensors operable to measure different wellbore conditions proximate to the electrical components.

FIG. 2 illustrates a schematic, cross-sectional view of an optical fiber **200**. The optical fiber **200** includes an optical core **202** that extends along a longitudinal axis **203** from a first end of optical fiber **200** to a second end of the optical fiber **200**. The optical core **202** may be formed from a type of silica or plastic and is surrounded by a cladding **204**, which is usually formed from a silica or plastic with lower index of refraction than the core to facilitate transmission of photons from the first end of the optical fiber **200** to the second end of the optical fiber **200**. The carbon based coating **206** and the intermediary layer **207** wrap around the optical core **202** and the cladding **204**. This carbon based coating protects the optical core and the cladding from various adverse conditions and contaminants discussed herein. Although the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 2 contains one intermediary layer **207**, other embodiments may include no intermediary layer or multiple intermediary layers. In some embodiments graphene is formed on the carbon based polymer via one or more laser induction processes. Additional descriptions of different laser induction processes are described in the following paragraphs and are illustrated in at least FIGS. 3-8.

The graphene layer inhibits hydrogen ions as well as other contaminating atoms or molecules from penetrating the carbon based coating **206**, thereby protecting the optical core **202** from hydrogen darkening. In some embodiments, the graphene layer forms a conductive path to provide power to downhole electronic components such as the sensors **122** and the downhole logging tool **125**. Further, electronic components are formed and/or disposed on the graphene layer. In one of such embodiments, the intermediary layer **207** forms an insulating layer that shields the electronic components on the graphene layer from other components of the optical fiber **200**. In further embodiments, the intermediary layer **207** enhances the material properties of the optical fiber **200**. In some embodiments, a jacket (not shown) is added around the carbon based coating to further insulate the optical core **202**.

FIG. 3 illustrates a perspective view of a system **300** for forming a graphene layer on the optical fiber **200** of FIG. 2 via laser-induction. The optical fiber **200** is wound from an optical fiber feed reel **302** to the optical fiber uptake reel **303**. As the optical fiber **200** travels from the optical fiber feed reel **302** to the optical fiber uptake reel **303**, laser beams are emitted from lasers **304A-C** onto the carbon based coating of the optical fiber **200**. In some embodiments, the laser beams may photothermally and/or photochemically convert a surface of the carbon based coating into graphene. In some embodiments, the laser beams convert carbon atoms of the

carbon based coating from having an  $sp^3$  hybridization to an  $sp^2$  hybridization. In one of such embodiments, a  $CO_2$  laser induces lattice vibrations at localized sections of the carbon based coating. The lattice vibrations increase the temperature at the localized sections of the carbon based coating. The temperature increase breaks C—O, C=O and N—C bonds of the localized sections of the carbon based coating. This process releases oxygen and nitrogen atoms and ions as gaseous compounds while the remaining carbon atoms and ions form a graphitic structure, which includes at least one layer of graphene. In some embodiments, the layer of graphene may be treated with manganese dioxide, ferric oxyhydroxide, polyaniline, poly(vinyl alcohol) (PVA) in  $H_2SO_4$ , or other similarly charged chemical to form a microsupercapacitor on the layer of graphene. In additional embodiments, the layer of graphene may be combined with other materials, such as  $MoS_2$ , hexagonal boron nitride, layered transition metal dichalcogenides to form field effect transistors, optical modulators, capacitors, microsupercapacitors, as well as other electronic components discussed herein. In further embodiments, pre-formed microsupercapacitors and other electronic components may be disposed on the layer of graphene.

In some embodiments, the lasers **304A-C** are operable to rotate around the optical fiber **200** while the optical fiber **200** is drawn from the fiber feed reel **302** to the optical uptake reel **303** to form the layer of graphene and/or to form electronic components on the layer of graphene. In further embodiments, the optical fiber **200** may be rotated while the optical fiber **200** is drawn from the fiber feed reel **302** to the optical uptake reel **303** to form the graphene or to form electrical components on the layer of graphene. In some embodiments, the foregoing process described in the previous paragraphs and illustrated in FIG. 3 is repeated to form multiple layers of graphene. In one of such embodiments, after a first layer of graphene is formed by the lasers **304A-C**, an additional layer of carbon based coating is applied to the optical fiber **200**. The optical fiber **200** containing the additional layer is then wound around the fiber feed reel **302** and is drawn from the fiber feed reel **302** to the optical uptake reel **303**. As the optical fiber **200** travels from the optical fiber feed reel **302** to the optical fiber uptake reel **303**, laser beams are emitted from the lasers **304A-C** onto the second layer of carbon based coating to photothermally convert a surface of the second layer of carbon based coating into a second layer of graphene. In some embodiments, additional electrical components are formed on the second layer of graphene. Additional descriptions of processes for forming electrical components on graphene are provided herein.

FIG. 4 illustrates a perspective view of a system **400** for forming a graphene layer on a fiber optic preform via laser-induction. A preform feed **402** may hold the preform **404**. In some embodiments, the preform **404** is formed from silica or plastic and includes materials that form the optical core and cladding of an optical fiber. The preform **404** may be drawn through a furnace **406**, which melts the preform **404** to form an optical fiber **407**. A sensor, such as a laser micrometer **408** may measure the diameter of the optical fiber **407** and adjust the draw rate to ensure the optical fiber **407** has a desired uniform thickness. The optical fiber **407** may be pulled through a first coating cup **410** containing material for a carbon based coating. Once a coating of carbon based polymer is applied to the optical fiber **407**, the optical fiber **407** passes through a first curing oven **412** to cure the carbon based coating. As the optical fiber **407** passes by a laser system **414**, a laser beam generated by the

laser system **414** focuses on the optical fiber **407** to photo-thermally convert a surface of the carbon based coating into a layer of graphene. The laser power may be adjusted to optimize the layer thickness, sheet resistance, domain size, atomic purity, and structural purity of the graphene element. The optical fiber **414**, now with a graphene element, may pass through a second coating cup **416** containing material for an additional coating, such as a buffer coating or a jacket. Once an additional layer of coating is applied, the optical fiber **407** passes through a second curing oven **418** to cure the additional coating. The optical fiber **407** is then retrieved from tractor **420**.

The system illustrated in FIG. 4 produces an optical fiber having an optical core, a cladding, a carbon based coating having a layer of graphene, and an additional layer of coating. In some embodiments, the second coating cup **416** and the second curing oven **418** are not included in the system **400**. In such embodiments, the optical fiber would include an optical core, a cladding, and a carbon based coating having a layer of graphene. In other embodiments, multiple intermediary layers of coatings are applied before or after a graphene layer is formed on the carbon based coating. In one of such embodiments, one or more intermediary layers may be layered on the fiber through chemical vapor deposition. In another one of such embodiments, one or more intermediary layers may be layered on the fiber through liquid deposition. In a further embodiment, one or more intermediary layers may be layered on the fiber through evaporation sputtering. In a further embodiment, one or more intermediary layers may be layered on the fiber through electrodeposition. In a further one of such embodiments, one or more intermediary layers may be layered on the fiber through electroplating. In further embodiments, multiple layers of graphene are applied to multiple layers carbon based coating. In further embodiments, microfabrication techniques such as, but not limited to dissolvable photoresist, wet chemical etching, and reactive ion etching may be performed to pattern the layer of graphene or one or more intermediary layers and to form electronic devices, such as capacitors, supercapacitors, transistors, resistors, diodes, and the like. In further embodiments, one or more pre-formed layers of graphene may be applied to the optical fiber during or after the foregoing process. In one of such embodiments, the one or more pre-formed layers of graphene are formed using one of the processes described herein. Additional techniques used to form electronic devices on the optical fiber are provided in further detail in the paragraphs below.

FIG. 5 illustrates a top down view of a layer of graphene electrolyte **502** formed on a carbon based coating **500**. The lasers **304A-304C** may form graphene electrode patterns on the carbon based coating of the optical fiber **200**. Positive and negative charges are arranged on different graphene electrodes through exposure to electrolytes (aqueous or solid state) or to exposure to different voltages. A capacitor may then be formed by separating the charged electrodes. In other embodiments, the lasers **304A-304C** form graphene arrays and electrodes are disposed on the graphene arrays to form capacitors. Through multiple layers of coatings, multiple layers of capacitors or capacitors orthogonal to the fiber surface may be formed. In some embodiments, the lasers **304A-C** are operable to rotate around the optical fiber **200** while the optical fiber **200** is drawn from the fiber feed reel **302** to the optical uptake reel **303** to form patterns of electrolytes on the layer of graphene. In further embodiments, the optical fiber **200** may be rotated while the optical fiber **200** is drawn from the fiber feed reel **302** to the optical

uptake reel **303** to form the graphene or to form the patterns of electrolytes on the layer of graphene.

FIG. 6 illustrates a schematic, cross-sectional view of the optical fiber **200** of FIG. 2, where electrical components are disposed on the layer of graphene of the optical fiber. As described in FIG. 5, a laser induction process may be used to form different graphene arrays and electrode patterns that are used to form capacitors **208**. In some embodiments, the capacitors **208** form a power source to provide power to sensors and to downhole tools.

Further, transistors **210**, diodes (not shown), resistors (not shown), as well as other electronics components may also be formed on the carbon based coating of the optical fiber via laser induction or some other fabrication process. In some embodiments, the electronic components form a sensor, such as, but not limited to, a temperature sensor, a pressure sensor, a resistivity sensor, an electromagnetic sensor, an acoustic sensor, a sensor operable to sense radioactive flux, a sensor operable to sense water content, or a pH sensor to measure the environment of the wellbore proximate to the electronic components. In some embodiments, additional layers of materials, such as boron nitride, molybdenum disulfide (MOS<sub>2</sub>), silicone layered transition metal dichalcogenides, and germanene layered transition metal dichalcogenides may be disposed on the intermediary layer **207** to the electrical components discussed herein.

FIG. 7 illustrates a fiber optic cable **700** having a plurality of optical fibers **702**. Each of the optical fibers **702** includes a fiber core **703**, a cladding **704**, and a carbon based coating **706**. Each of the carbon based coatings **706** includes a graphene layer (not shown). In some embodiments, the graphene layers are formed on the carbon based coatings **706** via a laser induction process described herein. In other embodiments, the graphene layers are formed on the carbon based coatings **706** via chemical vapor deposition. In further embodiments, the graphene layers are formed on the carbon based coatings **706** via liquid deposition.

The optical fibers **702** are protected by an intermediary layer **705** and another carbon based coating **706**. In some embodiments, the intermediary layer **705** enhances the material properties of fiber optic cable **700**. In one of such embodiments, the intermediary layer **705** increases the resilience of the fiber optic cable. In other embodiments, the intermediary layer **705** prevents contaminants such as hydrogen atoms from reaching the optical fibers **702**.

In some embodiments, the assembled stack of carbon based coatings may include more than two carbon based coatings. In one of such embodiments, a first surface and a second surface of a third carbon based coating are photo-thermally converted into a third layer and a fourth layer of graphene, respectively, where the first surface of the third carbon based coating is substantially opposite the second surface of the third carbon based coating. The third carbon based coating is inserted in between the first intermediary layer and the second carbon based polymer. Further, a second intermediary layer is inserted in between the second and third carbon based coatings to form a buffer layer between the two carbon based coatings. The first, second, and third carbon based coatings and the first and second intermediary layers are then assembled into a stack and assembled stack is applied to the optical core along the longitudinal axis of the optical core. Additional carbon based coatings and intermediary layers may be similarly added.

In other embodiments, carbon based coatings are applied to the optical core one layer at a time. In such embodiments, a graphene layer is formed on a surface of the most recently

applied carbon based coating before a new layer of carbon based coating is applied to the optical core. In one of such embodiments, an intermediary layer is applied as a buffer between adjacent layers of graphene.

The above-disclosed embodiments have been presented for purposes of illustration and to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to practice the disclosure, but the disclosure is not intended to be exhaustive or limited to the forms disclosed. Many insubstantial modifications and variations will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art without departing from the scope and spirit of the disclosure. For instance, although the flowcharts depict a serial process, some of the steps/processes may be performed in parallel or out of sequence, or combined into a single step/process. The scope of the claims is intended to broadly cover the disclosed embodiments and any such modification. Further, the following clauses represent additional embodiments of the disclosure and should be considered within the scope of the disclosure:

Clause 1, an optical fiber having a graphene coating, comprising an optical core extending along a longitudinal axis; a carbon based coating covering the optical core along the longitudinal axis; and a layer of graphene formed on a first surface of the carbon based coating, wherein the layer of graphene is electrically conductive, and wherein the layer of graphene is formed from a laser induction process comprising focusing a laser beam at the carbon based coating to photothermally convert the first surface of the carbon based coating into the layer of graphene.

Clause 2, the optical fiber of clause 1, further including a plurality of electrical components formed on the layer of graphene.

Clause 3, the optical fiber of clauses 1 or 2, wherein the plurality of electrical components form a power source to provide power to a downhole tool.

Clause 4, the optical fiber of any combination of claims 1-3, wherein the plurality of electrical components form sensor components to provide measurements of a downhole environment.

Clause 5, the optical fiber of any combination of clauses 1-4, wherein optical fiber of claim 4, wherein the sensor components are operable to measure at least one of a pressure, a temperature, a resistivity, an electromagnetic field strength and direction, an acoustic field strength, a radioactive flux, water content, and a pH of the downhole environment.

Clause 6, the optical fiber of any combination of clauses 1-5, further comprising an intermediary layer having material properties that strengthen the optical fiber.

Clause 7, the optical fiber of any combination of clauses 1-6, wherein the intermediary layer has insulating or semi-conducting properties that isolate the optical core from one or more electrically conductive layers.

Clause 8, the optical fiber of any combination of the clauses 1-7, wherein the carbon based coating is formed from polyimides.

Clause 9, the optical fiber of any combination of clauses 1-8, wherein the layer of graphene inhibits hydrogen ions from penetrating the carbon based coating.

Clause 10, the optical fiber of any combination of clauses 1-9, wherein the layer of graphene is electrically conductive.

Clause 11, a method to apply a graphene coating onto an optical fiber, the method including applying a first carbon based coating to an optical core of the optical fiber along a longitudinal axis of the optical fiber; focusing a laser beam at a first carbon based coating of the optical fiber; and

photothermally converting a first surface of the first carbon based coating into a first layer of graphene.

Clause 12, the method of clause 11, wherein photothermally converting the first surface of the carbon based coating into the first layer of graphene comprises converting carbon atoms of the carbon based coating from having an sp<sup>3</sup> hybridization to an sp<sup>2</sup> hybridization.

Clause 13, the method of clauses 11 or 12, further including applying a second carbon based coating to the optical core along the longitudinal axis of the optical fiber, and photothermally converting a first surface of a second carbon based coating into a second layer of graphene, wherein the second layer of graphene is positioned in between an optical core component of the optical fiber and the first layer of graphene.

Clause 14, the method of any combination of clauses 11-13, further comprising forming a plurality of electrical components on the first layer of graphene.

Clause 15, the method of any combination of clauses 11-14, further including: photothermally converting the first surface of the first carbon based coating into a graphene electrode pattern; and forming at least one of a positive electrode and at least one of a negative electrode from the graphene electrode pattern, wherein the plurality of electrical components are formed from the at least one positive and the at least one negative graphene electrode.

Clause 16, the method of any combination of clauses 11-15, further comprising forming a power source from the plurality of electrical components, wherein the power source supplies power to a downhole tool.

Clause 17, the method of any combination of clauses 11-16, further including forming a sensor component from the plurality of electrical components, wherein the sensor component provides measurements of a downhole environment.

Clause 18, a fiber optic cable having a graphene coating, the fiber optic cable comprising a plurality of optical fibers extending along a longitudinal axis; a carbon based coating encapsulating the plurality of optical fibers along the longitudinal axis; at least one layer of material disposed on a first surface of the layer of graphene.

Clause 19, the fiber optic cable of clause 18, further comprising a plurality of electrical components formed from the layer of graphene and a first layer of the at least one layer of the material.

Clause 20, the fiber optic cable of clauses 18 or 19, wherein the layer of graphene is disposed on the first surface of the carbon based coating via a laser induction process comprising focusing a laser beam at the carbon based coating to photothermally convert carbon atoms of the carbon based coating from having an sp<sup>3</sup> hybridization to an sp<sup>2</sup> hybridization.

Unless otherwise specified, any use of any form of the terms “connect,” “engage,” “couple,” “attach,” or any other term describing an interaction between elements in the foregoing disclosure is not meant to limit the interaction to direct interaction between the elements and may also include indirect interaction between the elements described. As used herein, the singular forms “a,” “an” and “the” are intended to include the plural forms as well, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. Unless otherwise indicated, as used throughout this document, “or” does not require mutual exclusivity. It will be further understood that the terms “comprise” and/or “comprising,” when used in this specification and/or the claims, specify the presence of stated features, steps, operations, elements, and/or components, but do not preclude the presence or addition of one or more other

## 11

features, steps, operations, elements, components, and/or groups thereof. In addition, the steps and components described in the above embodiments and figures are merely illustrative and do not imply that any particular step or component is a requirement of a claimed embodiment.

It should be apparent from the foregoing that embodiments of an invention having significant advantages have been provided. While the embodiments are shown in only a few forms, the embodiments are not limited but are susceptible to various changes and modifications without departing from the spirit thereof.

We claim:

1. A method to apply a graphene coating onto an optical fiber, the method comprising:

applying a first carbon based coating to an optical fiber along a longitudinal axis of the optical fiber;  
focusing a laser beam at the first carbon based coating;  
photothermally converting a first surface of the first carbon based coating into a first layer of graphene; and  
forming a plurality of electrical components on the first layer of graphene.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein photothermally converting the first surface of the first carbon based coating into the first layer of graphene comprises converting carbon atoms of the first carbon based coating from having an sp<sup>3</sup> hybridization to an sp<sup>2</sup> hybridization.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
applying a second carbon based coating to the optical fiber along the longitudinal axis of the optical fiber; and  
photothermally converting a first surface of a second carbon based coating into a second layer of graphene, wherein the second layer of graphene is positioned in between an optical core component of the optical fiber and the first layer of graphene.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
photothermally converting the first surface of the first carbon based coating into a graphene electrode pattern; and

forming at least one of positive electrode and at least one of negative electrode from the graphene electrode pattern,

wherein the plurality of electrical components are formed from the at least one positive and the at least one negative graphene electrode.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:  
forming a power source from the plurality of electrical components,

wherein the power source supplies power to a downhole tool.

6. The method of claim 4, further comprising:  
forming a sensor component from the plurality of electrical components,  
wherein the sensor component provides measurements of a downhole environment.

## 12

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the sensor component is operable to measure at least one of a pressure, temperature, resistivity, electromagnetic field strength and direction, acoustic field strength, radioactive flux, water content, and pH of the downhole environment.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising treating the first layer of graphene with a charged chemical to form a microsupercapacitor on the first layer of graphene.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising selecting the charged chemical from at least one of manganese dioxide, ferric oxyhydroxide, polyaniline, and poly(vinyl alcohol).

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising combining the first layer of graphene with at least one of MoS<sub>2</sub>, hexagonal boron nitride, and transition metal dichalcogenides to form at least one of the plurality of electrical components.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising disposing a preformed electrical component onto the first layer of graphene.

12. The method of claim 1, further comprising applying an intermediary layer around the optical fiber.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising:  
applying second carbon based coating to the intermediary layer along the longitudinal axis of the optical fiber;  
focusing the laser beam at the second carbon based coating; and

photothermally converting a first surface of the second carbon based coating into a second layer of graphene.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the intermediary layer is applied to the optical fiber before first carbon based coating to the optical fiber.

15. A method to apply a graphene coating onto an optical fiber, the method comprising:

applying a first carbon based coating to an optical fiber along a longitudinal axis of the optical fiber;  
focusing a laser beam at a first carbon based coating of the optical fiber;

photochemically converting a first surface of the first carbon based coating into a first layer of graphene; and  
forming a plurality of electrical components on the first layer of graphene.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising:  
applying a second carbon based coating to the optical fiber along the longitudinal axis of the optical fiber; and  
photochemically converting a first surface of a second carbon based coating into a second layer of graphene, wherein the second layer of graphene is positioned in between an optical core component of the optical fiber and the first layer of graphene.

17. The method of claim 15, further comprising disposing a preformed electrical component onto the first layer of graphene.

18. The method of claim 15, further comprising applying an intermediary layer around the optical fiber.

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